



DOCKET NO: 205721US0CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TOSHIO HIRANO, ET AL. : EXAMINER: P. M. MERTZ
SERIAL NO: 09/828,217 :
FILED: APRIL 9, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1646

FOR: A MEMBRANE PROTEIN POLYPEPTIDE HAVING PRE-B CELL GROWTH-SUPPORTING ABILITY AND A GENE THEREOF

AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RECEIVED

DEC 05 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated May 29, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

A discussion of the **Support for the Amendment** begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.